Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, EI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INCREASE IN IRISH USER CHARGES FOR ENROUTE AERONAUTICAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 1. AIRLINE USERS WERE NOTIFIED BY IRISH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER IN 1976 OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN USER CHARGES LEVIED BY THAT DEPARTMENT FOR EN ROUTE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AIRCRAFT ON TRANSOCEANIC FLIGHTS AND SHANWICK RADIO. PROPOSED INCREASE TO9 PER CONTACT COMPARES WITH 4.50 CHARGE NOW IN EFFECT. IRISH GOVERNMENT HAD INTENDED TO IMPLEMENT NEW CHANGE IN NOVEMBER 1976 BUT DECIDED TO DEFER IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASED CHARGE TO APRIL 1, 1977. DECISION TO DEFER IMPLEMENTATION WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA).
- 2. U.S. AIRLINE USERS OF THESE SERVICES PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER ARE SERIOUSLY UNCLASSIFIED

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CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROPOSED 100 INCREASE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THOSE AIRLINES PLAN TO MEET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER IN MID-APRIL. WE UNDERSTAND PAA, TWA, SEABOARD AND

PERHAPS NATIONAL WILL BE REPRESENTED. THE IRISH HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS MATTER.

- 3. USG IS CONCERNED ABOUT PROPOSED CHARGE AS ONE OF THE ESCALATING USER CHARGES LEVIED ON U.S. CARRIERS THROUGH-OUT WORLD. INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT OF 1974 REQUIRES U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION TO MONITOR WORLDWIDE CHARGES, WITH POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING COMPENSATORY CHARGES ON FOREIGN AIRCRAFT IF IT FINDS THAT FOREIGN CHARGES ARE UNREASONABLY EXCESSIVE OR ARE OTHERWISE DISCRIMINATORY, AND NEGOTIATION ON CHARGES IS UNSUCCESSFUL.
- 4. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT EMBASSY MAKE USG CONCERN KNOWN TO IRISH AUTHORITIES (PREFERABLY MR. T. NALLY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT AND POWER). SPECIFICALLY, U.S. BELIEVES THAT WHERE ANY DOUBT EXISTS IT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHARGING AUTHORITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT ITS COSTS ARE JUSTIFIED, AND THAT ITS CHARGES ARE REASONABLY RELATED TO THOSE COSTS, PROPERLY ALLOCATED.

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